

Missourians for Monarchs



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners

Monarch Madness

FREE PUBLIC EVENT!

**Saturday,
September 9
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Phone: (636) 300-2601 Email: WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov

Weldon Spring Site
MISSOURIANS FOR MONARCHS
ST. CHARLES COUNTY PARKS
MISSOURI MASTER NATURALISTS
MISSOURI MASTER GARDENER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Legacy Management

Discover all things monarch and celebrate their amazing lives at Monarch Madness, Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center in St. Charles County, MO. The event is free and open to all! Enjoy crafts, games, native garden demonstrations, butterfly tagging, Citizen Science information, and more. You can even purchase native plants and plant a couple of peat pots with milkweed and wildflowers to support monarchs at your home.

The event is sponsored by the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management, Missourians for Monarchs – Naturalist & Gardeners, Missouri Master Naturalists, St. Charles County Parks, Missouri Master Gardeners, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Great Rivers Greenway.

Limited parking will be available on-site. Additional parking is available at the neighboring Francis Howell High School with a short, half-mile, walk on the gravel Hamburg Trail to the site. The Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center is located at 7295 Highway 94, approximately two miles south of I-64/Hwy 40. For more information, contact us at

MO4Monarchs@gmail.com.

Progress South Elementary School

Monarch/pollinator habitat

By Robin Pilla

Robin Pilla

In 2015, Bob Lee sent out an email requesting participants for a grant to create Monarch habitats. I was very interested and contacted Progress South Elementary School principal, Dr. Deb Yerkes. She, along with the school district approved our site in a nearby unused field. I asked fellow Master Gardener, Leslie Limbergh for help with the design and she was very insightful. With our design in mind, we started our work. My husband Charlie and sons Ben and Tyson mowed and weed wacked the space and applied roundup. Then it was planting time! The space was divided into sections and we invited our volunteers. We were lucky to have my fellow Master Gardeners, family, friends, school alumni and even the principal as our helping hands! We planted 650 plants and many seeds in just a couple of hours! The district provided us with top soil and straw to finish the new habitat. After only a month, we started seeing blooms and the show just kept on till frost! The only hiccup we had was the introduction of a weed called Water Hemp. We did lots of hand weeding and I'm happy to say that none came up this year! This is our second growing season and the habitat is a great success! Many birds and pollinators including the endangered Monarch are reaping the benefits of so many native plants.



Time for migration magic

by Jason Jenkins, Missourians for Monarchs

The calendar on the wall above my desk still reads August, but there's a distinct hint of fall in the air outside my open window. Yes, I said open window. Decidedly cooler temps have sent my thoughts racing to days afield enjoying September pursuits — dove, teal and archery deer seasons are just around the corner, a prelude to the magic that is fall in Missouri.

But September also brings us another one of nature's magical events: the migration of the monarch butterfly. This creature's journey starts in mid-August in the north, when the first members of the migratory generation, known as the "Methuselah generation," begin emerging. These butterflies face a long and arduous journey south to the oyamel fir forests in the mountains of Mexico, a place last visited by their great-great-grandparents. How a creature that weighs no more than a standard paper clip can travel thousands of miles to a place it's never been is truly one of the greatest mysteries of the natural world.

If we are to ensure that this magical migration continues for generations to come, we must act now.

Here in Missouri, the monarch migration reaches its crescendo in mid-to-late September. The butterflies traveling through the Show-Me State fuel up along the route, sipping nectar from asters, goldenrod and other fall-blooming plants. Traveling during the day only, they congregate at night in a roost. Witnessing hundreds if not thousands of monarchs together en masse is a spectacle like few others.

If we are to ensure that this magical migration continues for generations to come, we must act now. Officials estimate that the monarch population has decreased by 90 percent during the past two decades. The main culprit? Habitat loss. Monarchs require milkweed plants to lay their eggs and feed their young, but milkweed isn't as prevalent as it once was on our landscape. As adults, the butterflies eat nectar, but native flowers that once splashed color across our state aren't nearly as abundant. As a monarch, it's hard to survive if you don't know where you'll find your next meal.

Fortunately, there are a number of opportunities available for those interested in establishing or enhancing monarch and pollinator habitat on their farms or hunting properties. Among these is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which just opened enrollment for the 2018 fiscal year. Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the program offers both technical and financial assistance for practices beyond traditional soil and water conservation. Today, you can sign up for EQIP specifically to help monarchs through the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project.

This fall, NRCS also will be administering a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project for monarchs. Working hand in hand with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, this RCPP is focused on improving working lands for monarchs. The deadline to sign up for both of these programs is Nov. 17.

As you sit in your deer stand, teal blind or dove field this month, keep an eye out for migrating monarchs. And if you haven't already, consider enrolling a portion of your acreage in EQIP. Visit www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov or stop by your local USDA Service Center to learn more.



Photo by Carmen G. Santos



Jason Jenkins

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Cell: 573-301-4187

jjenkins@quailforever.org



The Spring Azure, *Celastrina ladon*

By Cori Westcott

I was walking in Manchester, Missouri's Seibert Park the end of May when a small blue butterfly caught my eye. I followed the [Spring Azure](#), *Celastrina ladon* (form *violacea*) as it collected minerals from a small piece of rotting timber. They often extract vitamins & minerals from animal dropping, carrion and rotting wood. Lovely, huh?

The identification of the Spring Azure is well, both complicated and controversial. Now, North American Butterfly Association is recognizing subspecies, Appalachian and Summer. Most folks distinguish the species by location, flight time and association with host plant. I've read that their flight for all species is weak. Often they only venture less than one hundred meters from their origin. If that were true, it would be gratifying in this case because it would be another creature sustained by ecological restoration efforts at Seibert Park.

It was moving its hind wings to and fro. I've searched far and wide for a word to describe this behavior but to no avail. I recall years ago Bill Hoss pointing it out to me as we observed an Eastern Tailed Blue. They both belong to the *Lycaenidae* family which includes Blues, Hairstreaks, Elfins, Coppers and Harvesters. When the Eastern Tailed Blue moved its hindwings, his tiny tails were mimicking the movement of his antennae. It was intended to confuse its predator to think its tail end was really its head so he/she had a better chance to escape.

I made a short video of this behavior: Go to Youtube: Search: Spring Azure Butterfly Images. Title is on second page. (Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*)).

According to [Butterflies and Dragonflies of Illinois](#), Spring Azure caterpillars feed on sumacs, wild cherry, dogwoods and New Jersey tea. Three of those grow in the park. Two of the three are recently introduced. If their flight is so weak that they don't ever fly much distance from their origins, it gives me "hopeful testimony" that they're doing something right for Missouri's fauna at Seibert Park.

MDC—Milkweed Seed Collection

All seed must be from Missouri native plants

Send seed to:

George O. White Nursery
14027 Shafer Rd.
Licking, MO 65542

Storage

Seed should be kept in a brown paper, cloth,  move around it. It needs to be kept in a cool dark location. Moisture can be trapped in a plastic bag and could cause it to mold or encourage it to break dormancy. Heat will also kill germination more than cold. However, putting seed in a refrigerator or crisper drawer could mimic early season conditions that could cause seed to germinate.

The best storage is to place seed in a bag that will allow air movement and store in a cool/dark place with low moisture. The rule of thumb to follow is to keep seed where a combination of temperature and humidity is less than 100.

Include this information:

Species Name (keep each species separate
Location Collected (just a general description
such as your country or property)
Date collected
Notes: anything significant about the area

A Monarch Habitat Design

by Karen Leslie – Master Gardener, Regional Coordinator Missourians For Monarch– Naturalists & Gardeners

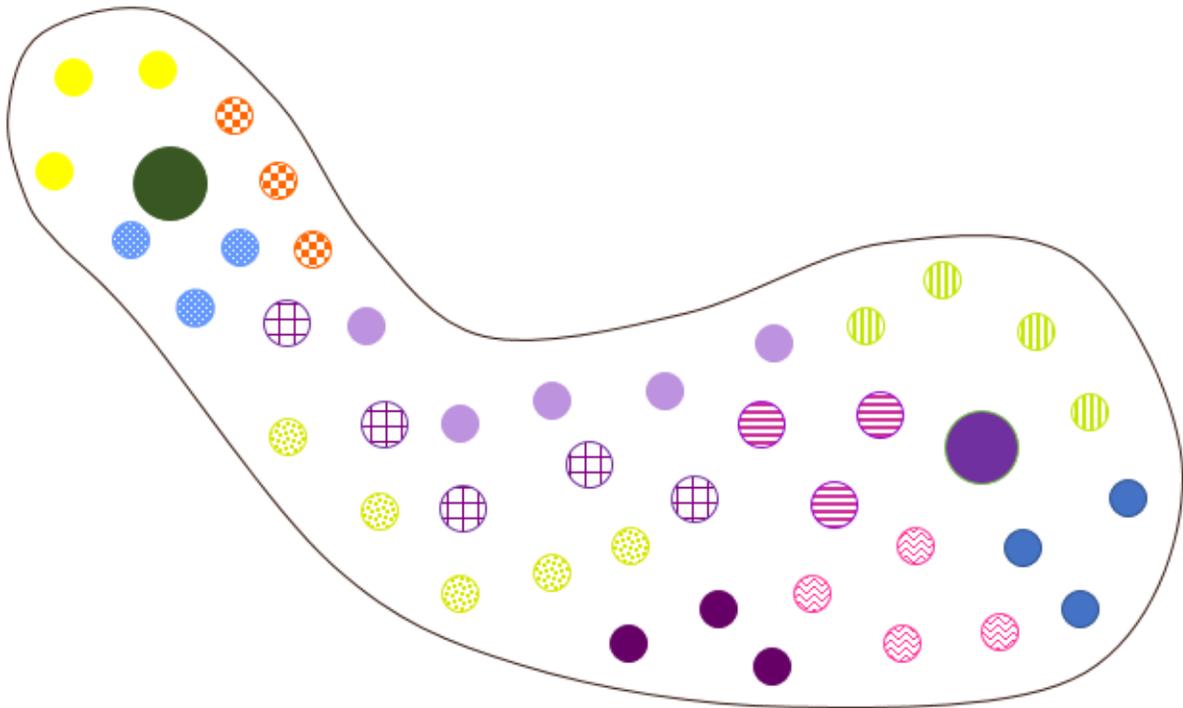
I am very blessed to have a lot of Monarchs each year visit my gardens and provide me the privilege to raise their young. My gardens are very eclectic, with at least three different varieties of milkweed and at least 5-6 different nectar plants in each garden. Each garden also has bushes and grasses for chrysalis spaces.

I cut back my milkweed plants to half their size the middle of June, so the larvae have tender leaves when they are hatching in July and August.

Here is one example of a Monarch Garden, using the plants from the lists.

MONARCH HABITAT

Kidney Shape – 16 feet long, 6 feet wide at one end and 4 feet wide at the other end.



Asclepias syriaca – Common Milkweed



Asclepias incarnata – Swamp Milkweed



Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly Weed



Echinacea pallida – Purple Coneflower



Rudbeckia hirta – Black-eyed Susan



Liatris aspera – Rough Blazing Star



Solidago speciose – Showy Goldenrod



Symphyotrichum oolentangiense – Sky Blue Aster



Coreopsis lanceolata - Coreopsis



Baptisia Australis – Wild Blue Indigo



Sedum spectabile - Sedum



Miscanthus sinensis -Maiden Grass



Buddleia – Ruby Butterfly Bush

Creating a monarch habitat in Missouri—Zones 5 & 6

By Karen Leslie—Master Gardener and Regional Coordinator

The monarch butterfly is the most recognized and iconic butterfly in North America and completes its annual migration from Mexico to Canada. The Monarch population is on a steady decline, down 90% over the last ten years. The lack of milkweed and native plants are a very real problem. Changes in pesticide use, and changes in land use such as development in Midwestern communities are threats to monarch habitat. It is very important to create habitats so the monarchs have a better chance of survival and are healthy enough to make the migration.

Selection of Milkweed Plants For your Habitat

Milkweed is the host plant for the monarch butterfly. As the monarch larva consumes the milkweed leaves, it also retains the cardiac glycosides making the monarch toxic to predators.



Common milkweed
Asclepias syriaca



Purple milkweed
Asclepias purpurascens



Green milkweed
Asclepias viridis



Marsh milkweed
Asclepias incarnata



Butterflyweed
Asclepias tuberosa

Male or Female monarch butterfly



Male Monarch Butterfly



Female Monarch Butterfly

Selection of Nectar Plants For your Habitat



Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



Purple Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea



New England Aster
Aster novae-angliae



Showy Goldenrod
Solidago speciosa



Rattlesnake Master
Erngium yuccifolium



Joe Pye Weed
Eupatorium purpureum



Scarlet Bee Balm
Monarda didya



Moonbeam Coreopsis
Coreopsis verticillata



Blue False Indigo
Baptisa australis



Rose Verbena
Glandularia canadensis



Culvers Root
Veronicastrum virginicum



Rough Blazing Star
Liatrix aspera



Smooth Blue Aster
Symphotrichum laeve



Moonshine Yarrow
Baptisa australis



Eastern Blazing Star
Liatrix scariosa



Compass Plant
Silphium integrifolium



Obedient Plant
Physostegia virginiana



Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis



Blue Lobelia
Lobelia siphilitica



Wild Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Protect Pollinators

Forever 49¢ | Sheet of 20

The U.S. Postal Service® pays tribute to the beauty and importance of pollinators with stamps depicting two of our continent's most iconic, the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and the western honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), each shown industriously pollinating a variety of plants native to North America.

The stamps from top left to right feature a monarch and a coneflower (photo by Karen Mayford); a monarch and a zinnia (photo by Bonnie Sue Rauch); a monarch and a goldenrod (photo by Justin Fowler); a western honeybee and a golden ragwort (photo by George D. Lepp); and in the second row, the second image from the left, a western honeybee and a New England aster (photo by Michael Durham). The remainder of the stamps in this pane of 20 recur in a scattered arrangement reminiscent of a field of wildflowers. The selva photograph features a monarch and a goldenrod—a different view of the same two species depicted on one of the stamps (photo by Justin Fowler).

These particular species exemplify the ecological service provided by all pollinators, which include other insects, birds, and bats. Crop pollination by insects contributes some \$15 billion of produce to the U.S. economy each year. Trending declines in their populations alert us that pollinators now need mindful human intervention in order to thrive. Individuals can help butterflies, bees and other pollinators by planting pollinator gardens that include native flowers or heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetables.

Art director Derry Noyes designed this stamp pane with existing photographs.

These **Protect Pollinators** stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps. Forever stamps are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail® one-ounce price.



Fall Native Plant Sale, Birding & Pollinator Festival

Saturday, September 9, 2017, 8am-1pm
Audubon Trails Nature Center
 Meriweather Ct off White Columns Drive, Rolla



8 & 9 am: Bird & Wildflower Walks
 10 am: Hummingbird Banding by Lanny Chambers
 11 am: Native Plants for Native Pollinators by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

- Booths on Monarchs, Pollinators & Beekeeping
- Great Missouri Birding Trail
- Friends of the Nature Center
- Bird & Bat Houses
- MO Native Plant Society
- Native Plants vs. the Invaders
- Stan's Grill & Homemade Goodies!
- Native Plants from Doolittle Gardens
- Fall is a good time to plant native perennials!

More info: meramechills.org
 FB: Ozark Rivers Audubon



St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour

Saturday, September 16th, 2017

9 am to 4 pm

10 Locations in Ballwin, Chesterfield, Manchester and
 Town and Country



Self-guided tour of residential gardens.
 Sun, shade, wet & dry plus butterfly / bird-friendly sites.

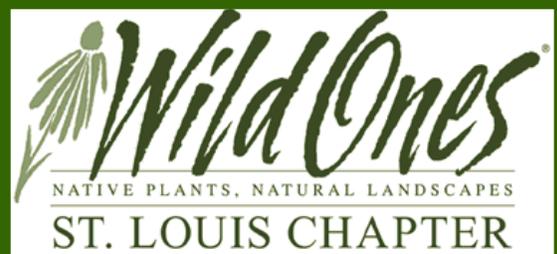
\$15 / before Aug 15th
 \$20 / afterward

Register at: St. Louis Audubon Society website



Bring Conservation Home

A St. Louis Audubon Society Community Partnership





NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Native Plant Sale- Missouri Prairie Foundation
September 16 • Saturday • 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM (or until sold out)
Missouri Department of Conservation “Monarch Mania” Event
Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64110**

A variety of native wildflowers, sedges, grasses, trees and shrubs suitable for shade, partial shade, sun, dry or moist conditions from two vendors will be available. This is a great opportunity to buy native plants that will look great in your home landscape and will provide essential habitat for native pollinators and birds. Many species of plants—both host and nectar plants—for pollinators, including monarch butterflies will be available. Vendors donate a generous portion of proceeds to help MPF conserve vital pollinator habitat on its native prairies.

If you wish to preorder plants and have your order ready for pick up at the event, you can preorder from the following vendors:

Cash, check and credit card accepted. [Missouri Wildflowers Nursery](http://MissouriWildflowersNursery.com): [573-496-3492](tel:573-496-3492)

[Prairie Whisper Gardens](http://PrairieWhisperGardens.com): [913-484-7186](tel:913-484-7186)

Cash, check, and credit card accepted. Questions? Call [816-716-9159](tel:816-716-9159).

September 23, 2017: Native Tree Walk with Eric Lovelace of Forrest Keeling Nursery to Dupont Forest Natural Area

**DuPont Forest Natural Area
Louisiana, Missouri**

10am - 2pm

Native Tree Walk with Eric Lovelace of Forrest Keeling Nursery to Dupont Forest Natural Area near Louisiana, MO. Meet at the nursery in Elsberry or at the natural area. 10:00 a.m. Free Registration information coming soon. Questions? Call [888-843-6738](tel:888-843-6738).

BUTTERBIKE



STEMS on the Ground

AN EVENING WITH SARA DYKMAN

Since March, Sara Dykman has been following the monarch butterfly's 10,000-mile migration pattern on her bicycle. Dykman will speak when she stops in Columbia on her return to Mexico.

7 p.m. | September 17 | Tate Auditorium



MIZZOU BOTANIC GARDEN

University of Missouri



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

JOURNEY NORTH

Every fall, a magical event takes place—the annual monarch migration to Mexico. Perhaps traveling over your own head right now—or clustered by the hundreds in a nearby tree—monarchs are on the move. By instinct alone, they migrate to mountain sanctuaries in Mexico where they've never been before.

We look on with wonder:

- How do the monarchs know when to go to Mexico?
- How do they know which way to fly?
- How fast, how far, and how high do they travel?

Travel with the monarchs this fall. Find out what's known about these migration mysteries, and how much more we can discover.

Report Your Sightings and Track Migration



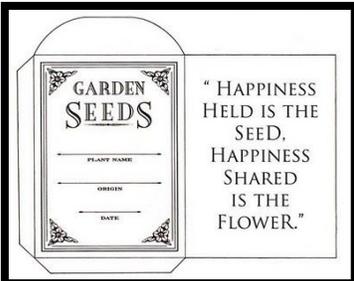
Get the App



Report Your Sightings



Share the Map



Seed Saving Class
Saturday, September 23, 2017
10:00am—3:00pm
Union Auditorium, 500 E. Locust Street
Union, MO 63084
REGISTRATION:
\$30 per person
Lunch included

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration and payment postmarked no later than September 20th.

Make checks payable to University of Missouri Extension

Mail to: University of MO Extension
Attn: Marsha Parsons
116 West Main Street
Union, MO. 63084





Monday, October 9, 2017

2017 Learn to Grow in the Garden Series:

Garden Journaling



Have you considered making a garden journal? Garden journaling is an informative, creative, and fun way to keep track of what's in the garden, when it was planted, how it performed, and all kinds of notes and plans for the following year. Join Master Gardener Dulcy Stewart and friends as they share their own garden journals. Participants are encouraged to bring theirs and join in the show and tell. Encourage your inner artist and gardener as we take time to either begin a first time journal, or work on your own with journaling plans for next spring.

LOCATION:

The Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center
2400 S Scenic
Springfield, MO 65807
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

\$5/person per class | Register and pay at the door



Jefferson City's *Hidden Gem* the Central Missouri
Master Gardeners' River City of Gardens.
Bill Quigg Commons, North Jefferson City

River City  Fall Festival

October 21, 2017

(Free)

10 AM to 4PM

The River City Fall Festival: All day event. Handmade craft and food booths, live entertainment, pony rides, clowns, petting zoo, wagon rides, knockerball, pumpkins and other activities are planned for the entire family.

Visit our Facebook page:

Central Missouri Master Gardeners' Fall Festival

SPECIAL EVENTS

September 2nd:

Shaw Nature Reserve Wildflower Identification and Ecology. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

September 7th:

Monarch Magic, Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center, 1402 NW Park Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Registration required September 1st by calling 816-228-3766 (families)

Protecting Our Pollinators, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
No registration required.

Shaw Nature Reserve Native Plant Tea from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

September 8th:

Shaw Nature Reserve Wildflower Market from 4:00 pm until 7:30 pm at the Glassburg Family Pavilions.

September 9th:

Monarch Madness at Weldon Spring Site in St. Charles, MO from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Free to all.

September 11th:

Monarch Tagging, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO
9:00 am to 12:00pm, ages 8 to adult

September 12th:

Monarch Tagging, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO
9:00 am to 12:00pm, ages 8 to adult

September 15th:

Monarch Tagging, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO
9:00 am to 12:00 pm ages 8 to adult

September 16th:

Monarch Magic, Burr Oak Woods CNC, 1402 NW Park Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015 , 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm,
Registration required beginning September 1st by calling 816-228-3766 (ages 0-36 months)

MPF Native Plant Sale in Kansas City, MO. At the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave., Kansas
City, MO 64110 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm.

September 19th:

Monarch Tagging, Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO
9:00 am to 12:00 pm ages 8 to adult

Babes in the Woods: Flutter Like A Butterfly, Burr Oak Woods CNC, 10:00 am to 11:00 am

MISSOURI EVENTS

September 21st:

Monarch Tagging August A. Bush Memorial Conservation Area, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, ages 8 and up. We will meet in the garden in front of the Weldon Spring Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO

Monarch Magic, Burr Oak Woods Nature Center from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Registration required beginning September 1st by calling 816-228-3766. (families)

September 22nd:

Mighty Migration, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 9:30 am to 11:30 am (ages 7-12).

Registration required beginning September 8th by call 314-301-1500.

September 23rd:

Grow Native! Native Tree Walk with Eric Lovelace of Forrest Keeling Nursery to Dupont Forrest Natural Area. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

September 30th:

Making More Plants: Propagation Made Simple. HORT179 from 9 am to 11:30 am St. Louis Community College \$25.00 Call 314-984-7777 Registration code: 20172571396

October 3rd:

Go Native: Native Landscaping for Bees, Butterflies and other Pollinators. HORT713 from 6 pm to 9 pm St. Louis Community College. \$29.00 Instructor: David Tylka Call 314-984-7777 Registration code: 2017251401

October 6th:

Grow Native Workshop. Restoration of Oak-Hickory Woodland and Bush Honeysuckle Management. Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit, MO 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

October 7th:

Missouri Prairie Festival in St. Louis, MO. Watch for details.

Shaw Nature Reserve Wildflower Identification and Ecology from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Landscape Basics: Plan Now for a Beautiful Spring. HORT 711 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at St. Louis Community College in Kirkwood, MO \$25.00 Registration code: 20172571397

October 14th:

Evening on the Prairie at Cole Camp, MO.

November 3rd:

Grow Native! Soils Workshop. St. Louis Community College in Kirkwood, MO. Watch for details.

November 4th:

Grow Native: Native Tree Walk at Bellefontaine Cemetery. Register 888-843-6739.



Mayors' Monarch Pledge Update:

Missouri Cities that have joined since last newsletter:

Maryland Height, MO

Board of Trustees Chairman, Arnold Sandbothe

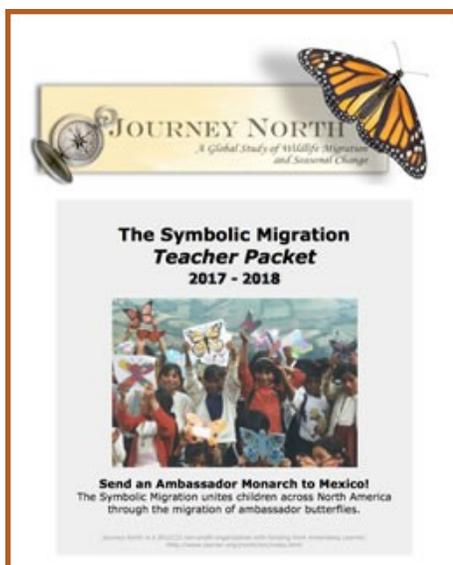
Lee's Summit Government

Mayor Randy Rhoads



A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam... and for a brief moment its glory and beauty belong to our world. But then it flies again and though we wish it could have stayed...we feel lucky to have seen it.

Author Unknown



Send a Monarch to Mexico!
You're invited to participate in the 21st annual Symbolic Monarch Butterfly Migration.

Download the instructions:

- [Teacher Packet](#)

I hope everyone has enjoyed the September edition of the Missourians for Monarch—Naturalists & Gardeners newsletter.

If you have any suggestions please contact MO4Monarchs@gmail.com